

German Patent and Trademark Office

Munich, September 11, 2003
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Applicant/Owner: Sick AG

Your Ref.: LS 24/02

Your search request of: 09/04/2002
per §43 of the Patent Law

German Patent and Trademark Office - 80297 Munich

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File reference: 102 39 468.7

Search Report**A. Classification of Subject Matter According to International Patent Classification (IPC)**

IPC 07
G 01 V 8/10
G 01 V 8/02 G 01 B 11/25 G 02 B 27/10 G 02 B 27/30

B. Fields Searched

Class/Group	Examiner	Patent Division
G 01 V 8/10	DR. KLAUS WOLLNY	52
G 01 V 11/25 G 01 V 8/02	G 02 B 27/10	G 02 B 27/30

The search at the German Patent and Trademark Office is based on the patent literature of the following countries and organizations:
Germany (DE,DD), Austria, Switzerland, France, Great-Britain, USA, Japan (Abstracts), former USSR (Abstracts), European Patent Office, WIPO.

The search covers the following data bases:

Name of data base and host

DEPTIS
WPIDS
INSPEC
EUROPATFUL

Classes/groups listed in section A but not expressly mentioned in section B above were either covered by an overlapping IPC data base search or are purely for informational and documentation purposes. A search was made with the results given in section C for classes/groups that were cited in section B but not in section A above.

C. Results of Literature Search

Cat.	Documents cited	Explanations	Relates to claim(s) IPC/Sources
A	DE 43 21 876 C1	Abstract, Fig. with relevant Fig.	1-5

Cat.	Documents cited	Explanations	Relates to claim(s) IPC/Sources
A	DE 100 13 299 A1	Abstract, Fig. with relevant Fig.	1,3
X	DE 36 24 441 A1	Fig. with relevant Fig.	1-5
X	US2002/00 30 492 A1	Figs. 4,6,7,15,16,18 with relevant Fig.	1-5
A	US 36 91 517 A	Fig. 1 and 5 with relevant Fig.	1-5
Y	EP 10 43 682 A1	Abstract, Figs.2-4 with relevant Fig.	1-5
A	EP 02 78 714 A2	Abstract, Fig. with relevant Fig.	1-5
Y	EP 05 53 266 B1	Figs. 2-5 with relevant Fig.	1-5
X	JP 63-1 78 282 A	the whole document	1-5

D. Following Literature and Citations Not Available to the German Patent and Trademark Office:

The search does not extend to prior art cited by the applicant for which copies are not available to the German Patent and Trademark Office. To request an examination under § 44 of the Patent Law, the applicant must submit copies of such literature for placement in the examination file.

E. Date of Completion of Search September 5, 2003

Completeness of Search:

No guarantee is provided herein regarding completeness of search for relevant documents or of accuracy of cited categories (§43, par. 7, 1st sentence, Patent Law and §7, par.2 of the Utility Model Law together with §43, par. 7, 1st sentence, Patent Law)

Date of Mailing of Search Report

Enclosures: 9

Patent Division 1.11
Search Directorate

[seal]

EXPLANATIONS REGARDING SECTION C. RESULTS OF LITERATURE SEARCH

Column: Cat(egory)

X: Documents which, when taken alone, place in doubt novelty or inventive activity (§ 43 Patent Law) /inventive step (§ 7 Utility Model Law).

Y: Documents which, when combined with other documents, place in doubt inventive activity (§ 43 Patent Law) /inventive step (§ 7 Utility Model Law).

A: Document defining the general state of the art; technological background

O: Oral disclosure, e.g. public presentation delivered prior to the filing date or priority date, which appears in a subsequently published document.

P: Documents published prior to the application filing date but later than the claimed priority date.

T: Later published, non-conflicting documents which relate to the theory underlying the invention as filed and which may be useful in providing a clearer understanding of the invention as filed, or which show the line of thought or facts underlying the invention as filed to be potentially faulty.

E: Earlier applications per § 3, par. 2 Patent Law (in searches per § 43 Patent Law)/ earlier patent or utility model applications per § 15 Utility Model Law (in searches per § 7 Utility Model Law).

D: Documents previously cited in a patent application (in searches per § 43 Patent Law)/ documents previously cited in an application or utility model (in searches per § 7 Utility Model Law).

L: Documents cited for specific reasons, such as to establish the publication date of another citation or when priority claim(s) are called into question.

Column: Explanations

The explanations and relevant passages indicated in the search procedure are listed in this column separately from the cited documents. When citing a document the following abbreviations and symbols are used:

Publ.: Date of publication of a document that falls before the application filing date but after the claimed priority date.

=: Documents that stem from the same first filed application ("patent families") or that relate to reports or abstracts

For class/group designations in which no document is cited, the symbol

"_" = no results

Column: Relates to claim(s)

Refers to claims cited to which the remarks listed in the "Explanations" column relate.

Note on Patent Literature:

The cited patent literature is available for viewing in the public reading rooms of the German Patent and Trademark Office, 80331 Munich, Zweibrückenstrasse 12 or 10969 Berlin, Gitschner Str. 97; German patent documents, published examined and unexamined patent specifications and, in part, patent literature from foreign countries may also be viewed in the patent information centers. An index of these patent information centers can be obtained through the German Patent and Trademark Office as well as through several private firms.

Online searches of patent publications from around the world that are found in the internal data records of the German patent information system (DEPATIS) are available at no cost at <http://www.depatis.net>